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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended). A computer implemented and user interactive method for brokering upgraded resources that provides greater software product functionality comprising the steps of

providing a computer system that includes a software product that initially provides to the user a subset of software product functionality,

collecting data describing user interaction with the subset,

analyzing automatically said data to determine whether at least one data pattern has been identified, and

initiating, by the computer system, communication with the user of an availability of product functionality that can be perceived by the user and that is not within the subset when said at least one data pattern has been identified.

2. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises the step of

collecting interval of use data for said software product.

3. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises the step of

collecting statistical data regarding use of said software product.

4. (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises the step of collecting demographic data regarding said user.

5. (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises the step of collecting geographic data regarding said user.

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6. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said step of analyzing automatically comprises the step of
determining whether any threshold has been satisfied by said collected data.
7. (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein said step of analyzing comprises the step of
applying a fuzzy algorithm to said collected data to determine whether a said data pattern can be identified.
8. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said initiating step comprises using the computer system to interactively communicate with said user.
9. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 8, wherein said initiating step further comprises
interactively communicating by voice with said user.
10. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 8 wherein said initiating step further comprises
interactively communicating by a visual mechanism and a tactile response mechanism with said user.
11. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of
collecting data from a group of users,
collecting user decisions from the group of users, and
determining when to offer greater software product functionality to at least one user based upon at least group user data and decisions.

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12. (Previously Amended). A computer implemented and user interactive method for brokering upgraded functionality in a voice responsive telephone personal assistant system comprising the steps of

providing a computer system that includes a personal assistant system software product that initially provides to the user a subset of software product functionality,

collecting data describing user interaction with the subset,

analyzing automatically said data to determine whether at least one data pattern has been identified, and

initiating, by the personal assistant system, communication with the user of an availability of product functionality that is not within the subset when said at least one data pattern has been identified.

13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein said analyzing step further comprises the step of

identifying a data pattern when at least one user threshold has been satisfied.

14. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 13 further comprising the steps of

collecting data from a group of users,

collecting user upgrade decisions from at least a portion of the group, and

determining when to offer said greater functionality to a user based upon at least group response data and decisions.

15. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 13 wherein said initiating step further comprises

verbally and interactively making an offer, by said system, to said user for greater functionality in using said system.

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16. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 15 wherein said making step comprises interactively presenting said offer, by said system, for greater functionality in the context of a new message.

17. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of offering greater functionality by the system to the user in multiple steps dependent at least upon said data patterns.

18. (Previously Amended). A computer implemented and user interactive method for brokering upgraded resources that provides greater software product functionality comprising the steps of

providing a computer system that includes a software product that initially provides to the user a subset of software product functionality,

collecting use data describing use of the subset,

analyzing automatically by the computer said data to determine whether at least one use threshold has been satisfied, and

initiating, by the computer system, communication with the user of an availability of product functionality that can be perceived by the user and that is not within the subset when said at least one threshold has been satisfied.

19. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 18 wherein said collecting step comprises collecting interval of use data for said product.

20. (Previously Amended). The method of claim 18 wherein said collecting step comprises collecting statistical data regarding use of said product.

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21. (Previously Amended). A method for brokering upgraded functionality in a voice responsive telephone personal assistant system for enabling greater functionality for a product function in said system comprising the steps of

providing a voice responsive telephone personal assistant system that includes a software product that initially provides to the user a subset of software product functionality,

collecting use data describing use of said product function,

analyzing automatically said data to determine whether at least one use threshold has been exceeded, and

initiating, by the voice responsive telephone personal assistant system, communication with the user of an availability of product functionality that can be audibly perceived by the user and that is not within the subset when said at least one threshold has been satisfied.

22. (Previously Amended). A computer implemented apparatus for brokering upgraded resources for enabling greater functionality for a product function comprising

means for providing to a user a subset of functionality of a software product,

means for collecting use data describing user interaction with said product function,

means for analyzing automatically said use data for determining whether at least one data pattern has been identified, and

means for initiating, by the apparatus, communication with a user of said product function an availability of said greater functionality when said at least one data pattern has been identified.

23. (Previously Amended). The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said collecting means collects interval of use data for said product function.

24. (Previously Amended). The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said collecting means collects statistical data regarding use of said product.

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25. (Previously Amended). A computer implemented apparatus for brokering upgraded resources for enabling greater functionality for a product function comprising

- means for providing to a user a subset of functionality of a software product,
- means for collecting use data describing use of said product function,
- means for analyzing automatically said use data for determining whether at least one use threshold has been exceeded, and
- means for initiating, by the apparatus, communication with a user of product functionality that is not within the subset when said at least one threshold has been satisfied.

26. (Previously Amended). The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said collecting means collects interval of use data for said product function.

27. (Previously Amended). The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said collecting means collects statistical data regarding use of said product.

28. (Previously Added). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving at the computer system user input indicating a selection of at a portion of the product functionality not within the subset.

29. (Previously Added). The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of receiving at the computer system user input indicating a selection of at a portion of the product functionality not within the subset.

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30. (Previously Added). The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of receiving at the personal assistant system user input indicating a selection of at a portion of the product functionality not within the subset.